

240th Navy Birthday Talking Points

Theme: “Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always”

Messages:

READY THEN: “240 years of U.S. naval presence around the globe, around the clock”

- Two-thirds (70%) of the Earth’s surface is covered by water, most of the world’s population lives close to a coast (80%), and almost all (90%) global trade travels by sea. Born a maritime nation, 240 years of service have proved that in peace and in war, a strong, forward-deployed Navy is key to America’s success.
- Throughout history, we’ve deployed in peace to protect the sea lanes of communication and to advance and safeguard America’s relationships and ideals. In conflict, we’ve defeated determined enemies at sea, in the air and ashore. Our forward-deployed naval presence delivers security, influence, and responsiveness unmatched by any other service or platform.
- From the very beginning, America’s Navy has been key to the strategic outcomes of politics and war. Our surface Navy blockaded enemy forces in the Battle of the Virginia Capes and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It defeated a determined enemy in the Battle of Leyte Gulf and kept critical sea lanes of communication open in the North Arabian Gulf during the Tanker Wars. We delivered forces across the beach in Okinawa and Naval gunfire in Normandy. Bainbridge was victorious against pirates in the Barbary Wars, and again USS Bainbridge protected American interests off Somalia in 2009 with the Maersk Alabama. For more than 115 years our submarine force has silently cruised the world’s oceans unseen, while providing our nation a strategic deterrence throughout the latter half of the century. Naval air power was the only solution for a sustained strike capability against ISIS in the opening months of Operation Inherent Resolve, and lastly, special forces have conducted clandestine operations at a time and place of our choosing. We are a maritime nation and our security will always be tied to the sea. Our Navy has been, and will be, where it matters, when it matters.
- For over 100 years we have repeatedly called up the dedication and talent of our Navy Reserve Force. Trained and ready, Reservists have been mobilized in times of crisis, whether it’s to support humanitarian operations or boots on the ground conflict. They’ve augmented our active Navy in every operation since May 1915, rapidly expanding our capacity and professional capability today is another day for us to celebrate and honor that part of our Naval heritage.

READY NOW: “Our people give the Navy its edge; a diverse force is a strong force.”

**Recognizing current force contributions i.e. talent management, culture of fitness...*

- Time and again our naval forces have proven themselves to be the most immediate, the most capable and the most adaptable option when a crisis develops.
- People have been, and will continue to be, our greatest asset. We will ensure the Navy’s future success by continuing to build a total force that draws from every talent pool, values health and fitness, and attracts and retains innovative thinkers.
- As the technology gap closes between our enemies and us, and the environment in which we operate becomes increasingly contested or denied, we will rely on the tactical skill and innovation of our people

to win. That requires a force of innovative and critical thinkers from diverse backgrounds. To achieve this we must access the depth and breadth of talent available across our great nation.

- More than ever, today's Navy is demographically representative of the nation we serve, which is critically important both to the quality of our all-volunteer force and to fulfilling the principles of the republic we defend.
- Earlier this year the Navy Reserve celebrated 100 years of naval service. Today, approximately 20 percent of the Navy Total Force is made up of Reserve Sailors. The role and contributions of the Navy Reserve are as vital as ever, on all fronts - from conflict prevention to conflict support, from combat to peacekeeping, from disaster relief to humanitarian assistance - a Reserve Force that is ready, relevant, and responsive to the nation's needs is critical to our day-to-day operations, surge capability and sustainability.

READY ALWAYS: "The Navy will continue to be at the front line of our nation's efforts when it matters, where it matters."

**Things we are doing to protect our future force / fleet i.e. UCLASS, FORD Class Carrier, Great Green Fleet, etc.*

- Our Sailors and Civilians continue a two-century tradition of warfighting excellence, adaptation, and resilience. A key component to our success over the past 100 years has been our Navy Reserve. As uniformed service members, Navy Reservists expand our capacity with ready, plug-'n-play experience, discipline and skills; as civilians, they bring diverse work experience and out-of-the-box problem solving tools to the Navy.
- Today's Navy faces a myriad of demands from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, to working with partners and allies, to dealing with multiple threats and potential conflicts. We meet these demands, and many more, using talented and resourceful people, superior platforms and equipment, demonstrating the versatility and flexibility that is the hallmark of our force.
- Our Navy's heritage is steeped in innovation. We have a rich tradition of turning bold ideas into operational realities. From the first steam-powered vessel USS Fulton, to the first nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus, to the new and advanced Ford class carriers, the Navy continues to evolve and employ next generation capabilities, boosting our combat effectiveness.
- The Navy's history in resourcing power, moving from sail to steam to oil and pioneering nuclear power, has set a foundation for future growth and discovery. The Great Green Fleet reinforces a Navy culture that recognizes energy as a key combat enabler aligned with Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) tenets, specifically:
 - **Warfighting First** – Energy efficiency increases mission combat capability
 - **Operate Forward** – Energy efficiency and alternative fuels enable increased range, endurance, time on station, and operational flexibility.
 - **Be Ready** – Energy efficiency promotes sustainable use of limited resources.
- Our forward presence is both a means and an end to tactical and potentially strategic outcomes. By operating forward, in international waters, we're able to respond faster, remain on station longer, and carry out our mission without needing anyone else's permission. Our presence also offers a strategic deterrent that can influence events ashore. We are often augmented through partnerships; that cooperation makes us more effective, diffuses tensions, and reduces misunderstandings.

****Source:** U.S. Fleet Forces Command, 240th Navy Birthday Communication Plan, 20 Aug 2015